

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-11 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 USIA-06 OES-07
SP-02 SS-15 STR-05 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NRC-05 /129 R

DRAFTED BY PM/ISP:FCMILLER:DLJ
APPROVED BY PM - DCGOMPERT
EB/TCA - RJOHE
EUR/SOV - ABOHLEN
INR/PMT - PMILLER
INR/STA - CHENKIN
PM/NPP - GOPPLINGER
NEA/IRN - MGREEN
NEA/IRS - ATHIBAULT
OSD/ISA/FMRA - JWOODS
OSD/ISA/NESA:CDR ZWART
DIA:LT LAUSTEN
-----104184 100923Z /10

R 092051Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DEHLI
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 005182

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, IN, IR

SUBJECT: SOVIET ASSISTANCE TO INDIAN NAVY ON NUCLEAR
PROPULSION

REF: TEHRAN 0040
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1. WE ARE EXTREMELY SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE WILLINGNESS OF
THE SOVIET UNION TO HELP INDIA ACQUIRE NUCLEAR POWERED
WARSHIPS (NPWS).
2. THE SOVIET NAVY HAS YET TO COMMISSION A NUCLEAR POWERED
SURFACE COMBATANT, AND IT IS THEREFORE UNLIKELY THAT THE

USSR IS CONTEMPLATING PROVIDING INFORMATION TO INDIA ABOUT PLATFORMS IT DOES NOT HAVE ITSELF. EVEN MOSCOW'S OLDEST NUCLEAR POWERED SUBMARINES ARE STILL OPERATIONAL SOVIET NAVY UNITS, AND AS A RESULT, LIKELIHOOD THAT SSNS WOULD BE SOLD TO INDIA IS LOW. FURTHERMORE, SOVIETS HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN EXTREMELY PROTECTIVE OF SUBMARINE REACTOR TECHNOLOGY AND WE FIND NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT A POLICY SHIFT HAS OCCURRED IN THAT AREA.

3. FINALLY, INDIAN NAVY EXPANSION PLANS CALL FOR INCREASING RELIANCE IN THE FUTURE ON INDIGENOUS PRODUCTION. ACQUIRING NPWS, WHICH INDIA IS FAR FROM READY TO PRODUCE,

WOULD BE INCONGRUENT WITH THIS POLICY. FURTHER, THE MONEY WHICH NPW ACQUISITION WOULD REQUIRE IN PURCHASE AND TRAINING COSTS WOULD IMPACT ADVERSELY ON CURRENT PLANS FOR INDIAN NAVY EXPANSION.

4. YOU MAY DRAW ON ABOVE INFORMATION IN REPLYING TO KHALATBARY. VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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